

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) A system for tracking status of an inventory shipment sent to a recipient, the system comprising:

a host computer for receiving an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of inventory from the recipient, the host computer being operable to automatically transmit a message to the recipient requesting acknowledgment of receipt of inventory if the electronic acknowledgment is not received within a first predetermined amount of time.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15 further comprising a terminal in communication with the host computer, the terminal being operable to transmit the electronic acknowledgment to the host computer and to receive the message from the host computer.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the terminal is further operative to automatically inhibit operation of the terminal if the terminal is not instructed to print the message within a second, predetermined amount of time.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the terminal is further operative to automatically restore operation of the terminal after the terminal is instructed to print the message.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the host computer is further operable to inhibit operation of the terminal if the recipient does not print the message within a second, predetermined amount of time.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the host computer is further operable to restore operation of the terminal after the terminal prints the message.

21. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the host computer is further operable to inhibit operation of the terminal if the recipient does not respond to the message within a second, predetermined amount of time.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the host computer is further operable to restore operation of the terminal after the recipient responds to the message.

23. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the host computer is further operable to transmit a notice to the terminal indicating that the shipment has been sent.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for tracking status of an inventory shipment sent to a recipient, the system comprising:

a terminal for transmitting an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of inventory; and

a host computer in communication with the terminal for receiving the electronic acknowledgment, the host computer being operable to automatically transmit a message to the terminal requesting acknowledgment of receipt of inventory if the electronic acknowledgment is not received within a first, predetermined amount of time, the host computer further being operable to inhibit operation of the terminal if the terminal does not transmit the electronic acknowledgment within a second, predetermined amount of time.

25. (New) The system of claim 15 further comprising a terminal disposable at a location different than the host computer, the terminal being configured to transmit the electronic acknowledgment to the host computer and to receive the message from the host computer.

26. (New) A system for tracking status of an inventory shipment sent to a recipient, the system comprising:

a terminal disposable at a first location and being configured to transmit an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of inventory; and

a host computer disposable at a second location different than the first location, the host computer being operable to transmit a message to the terminal indicating that the inventory shipment has been sent, the host computer further being configured to receive the electronic acknowledgment from the terminal, and to automatically transmit a message to the terminal requesting acknowledgment of receipt of inventory if the electronic acknowledgment is not received within a first, predetermined amount of time, the host computer also being operable to send a command to the terminal to inhibit operation of the terminal if the terminal does not transmit the electronic acknowledgment within a second, predetermined amount of time.